

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7378

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL ZURICH

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BRUSSELS FOR CIVAIR DEL WALDMANN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - TWA/PANAM ROUTE SWAP AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 4278

1. WE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF LONDON-VIENNA OPERATING RIGHTS WITH LANGLEY AND FENNESSY OF TWA AND AFTERWARDS ARRANGED MEETING FOR THEM AND EMBOFF WITH KEMMIS AND BROWN FROM DEPARTMENT OF TRADE DURING WHICH SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED WITH VIEW TOWARD OBTAINING AN ASSURANCE THERE NO OBSTACLES TO PROMPT AMENDMENT OF TWA PERMIT TO ADD VIENNA IF ROUTE SWAP APPROVED. DOT OFFICIALS SAID BEFORE THEY COULD GIVE ANY ASSURANCE THEY WOULD HAVE TO REVIEW QUESTION TO SEE WHY VIENNA WAS NOT INCLUDED IN PERMIT WHEN ORIGINALLY ISSUED.

2. BROWN SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED EMBOFF TO SAY THAT TWA'S LICENSE PRESENTLY GIVES CARRIER ONLY CARGO RIGHTS ON ROUTE 2 AND THESE RIGHTS ARE LIMITED TO PARIS, FRANKFURT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SWISS AND ITALIAN POINTS. REASONS FOR THIS LIMITATION, HE

SAID, STEM FROM UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN 1966 AS RESULT OF WHICH USG GAVE TWA A RESTRICTED DESIGNATION TO AVOID DRAWN-OUT CONSULTATIONS WITH BRITISH. BROWN SAID US WOULD HAVE TO RE-DESIGNATE TWA AND HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT UKG WOULD NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BILATERAL'S SAFEGUARDS RE MULTIPLE DESIGNATION OVER ROUTES IN AGREEMENT, I.E., CALL FOR CONSULTATIONS. BROWN SAID HE REALIZED IT MIGHT APPEAR TO US AUTHORITIES THAT UKG WOULD BE GOING OUT OF ITS WAY NEEDLESSLY TO CREATE DIFFICULTIES FOR TWA AND THAT WE MIGHT THINK UKG TACTICS RELATED TO OTHER BILATERAL PROBLEMS. HE SAID HE WISHES TO ASSURE US THIS NOT THE CASE. UKG RECOGNIZES BRITISH AVIATION INTERESTS STAND TO GAIN CONSIDERABLY MORE FROM PANAM/TWA ROUTE SWAP THAN THEY WOULD BE GIVING UP IN ADDING VIENNA TO TWA PERMIT. ACCORDING TO BROWN, HOWEVER, UK AND AUSTRIA PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN DISPUTE OVER CURRENT CAPACITY BEING OPERATED BETWEEN LONDON AND VIENNA AND WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR UK TO BE SEEN BY AUSTRIANS TO BE AUTHORIZING T//WA SERVICE OVER ROUTE.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE BRITISH REALLY WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMMODATE TWA ON VIENNA ISSUE (AT LEAST SO LONG AS THEY BELIEVE VIENNA MAY BE A SINE QUA NON FOR OVERALL ROUTE SWAP) BUT FIND THEMSELVES IN VERY AWKWARD POSITION. WE HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED TO BRITISH WE MIGHT WANT TO EXPLORE PROBLEM FURTHER DURING UPCOMING TALKS AND WE RECOMMEND US CIVAIR DEL ADD THIS TO AGENDA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE CONCERNING HISTORY OF LIMITATION ON TWA'S ROUTE 2 AUTHORITY. ALSO PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER WE SHOULD OFFICIALLY TELL BRITISH WE INTEND RAISE TWA ISSUE IN FORTHCOMING TALKS. SPIERS

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